

IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently Amended) In an audio-rendering device, a method comprising:
receiving at ~~an~~ the audio-rendering device, data comprising digital audio data
transmitted across a network from an audio host;
determining whether received digital audio data is encoded according to one of at
least two coding schemes;
selecting a decoding scheme based on the one of at least two coding schemes by
which the received digital audio data is encoded;
decoding the encoded digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding
scheme; and
converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output.
 2. (Previously Canceled)
 3. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising
encoding the digital audio data at the audio host.
 4. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein determining
whether the received digital audio data is encoded according to one of the at least two
coding schemes comprises determining whether the received digital audio data is
encoded according to coding schemes including mp3, wav, au, and aiff.

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5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein receiving digital audio data comprises receiving a plurality of digital audio data segments and reconstructing the digital audio data from the received plurality of digital audio data segments.

6. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein determining whether the received digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two coding schemes comprises identifying an indicator code included within at least one of the plurality of digital audio data segments.

7. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
determining whether the received digital audio data is compressed; and
decompressing the compressed digital audio data based upon the selected decoding scheme.

8. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 7, further comprising providing as output the analog audio to an amplification device.

9. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the digital audio data is received across at least one of a plurality of networks including a phoneline network, a powerline network, and a HomeRF network.

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10. (Currently Amended) An audio-rendering device comprising:
- a network interface to receive digital audio data transmitted over a network from an audio host;
 - a processor coupled with the network interface to:
 - determine whether received digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two coding schemes; ~~and;~~
 - select a decoding scheme based on the one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded; and
 - decode the encoded digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme; and
 - a converter coupled to the processor to convert the received digital audio data to analog audio for output to a speaker proximate the audio-rendering device.
11. (Previously Canceled)
12. (Previously Canceled)
13. (Previously Canceled)
14. (Currently Amended) The ~~digital-to-analog audio bridge~~ audio-rendering device according to claim 10, further comprising a read only memory coupled to the processor to store at least one CODEC.

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15. (Currently Amended) The ~~digital-to-analog audio bridge~~ audio-rendering device according to claim 10, wherein the processor decompresses the digital audio data if it is determined that the digital audio data is compressed.

16. (Previously Amended) A residential network audio system comprising:
a host device disposed in a first location to transmit digital audio data over a network; and
an audio-rendering device disposed in a second location, communicatively coupled with the host, to receive the digital audio data transmitted from the host, determine whether received digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two coding schemes, select a decoding scheme based on the one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded, decode the received digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme, and convert the received digital audio data to analog audio for output to a speaker proximate the audio-rendering device.

17. (Previously Canceled)

18. (Previously Amended) The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the network comprises a network including at least one of a phoneline network, a powerline network, and a HomeRF network.

19. (Previously Amended) The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the audio-rendering device is further disposed to:

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determine whether the received digital audio data is compressed; and
decompress the compressed digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme.

20. (Original) The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the digital audio data is transmitted according to the real-time transport protocol (RTP).

21. (Previously Amended) An article comprising a machine readable medium having a plurality of machine readable instructions stored thereon, wherein when the instructions are executed by a processor, the instructions subscribe the processor to:

receive digital audio data;
determine whether received digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two coding schemes;
select a decoding scheme based on the one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded;
decode the encoded digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme; and
convert the received digital audio data to analog audio for output to a speaker.

22. (Previously Canceled)

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23. (Currently Amended) The article of claim ~~22~~ 21, wherein the machine readable instructions that, when executed, subscribe the processor to receive audio data comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the processor to receive digital audio data transmitted across a network from an audio host.

24. (Previously Added) The method according to claim 1, wherein converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output comprises converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output to a speaker proximate the audio-rendering device.

25. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing an indication, within at least one of a plurality of data segments, whether digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two audio coding schemes; and

transmitting the plurality of data segments across at least one of a plurality of networks including a phoneline network, a powerline network, and a HomeRF network to an audio-rendering device.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein providing the indication, within the at least one of the plurality of data segments, whether the digital audio data is encoded according to the one of the at least two audio coding schemes comprises providing an indicator code within the at least one of the plurality of data segments.

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27. (Previously Added) A method of claim 6, further comprising:
selecting the one of the two coding schemes based on the identified indicator
code.

28. (Previously Added) The method of claim 27, wherein selecting the one of the two
coding schemes based on the identified indicator code comprises:
accessing a lookup table that includes entries for the at least two coding schemes;
comparing the identified indicator code to the entries in the lookup table; and
identifying an entry in the lookup table that corresponds to the indicator code,
wherein the entry is the coding scheme by which the received digital audio data is
encoded.
